



Placer County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Annual Inspection Report

Welfare & Institutions Code Section 229.5

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

Facility: Koinonia, House 5

Address: Withheld

Date of Inspection:

Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Team: Charles Holmes, Sharon Howard

Supervising Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Colleen Nichols

Staffing Ratio: 6 juveniles / 2 staff awake
 6 juveniles / 2 staff asleep

Number of suicides: 0

Number of assaults: 0

Number of runaways: approximately 3

GENERAL

Does the facility house juveniles under 601 of the W&I Code?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility house juveniles under 602 of the W&I Code?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are 601's and 602's separated?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are males kept separate from females?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

INTERIOR

Are sleeping rooms adequate and clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the interior of the house clean?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Were walls, paint, drains, plumbing, vents, windows, etc... in good working condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are recreational equipment and sporting equipment in good order?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the hallways kept clear and uncluttered?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there any graffiti present?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is a study area available for residence?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there adequate lighting in the facility?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the facility maintain an adequate temperature during seasons?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

EXTERIOR

Are outdoor common areas well maintained?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Are any outdoor areas in disrepair?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MEALS/NUTRITION

Is the kitchen clean?	YES [x]	NO []
Is staff present and supervising during meals?	YES [x]	NO []
Is a weekly menu prepared and posted?	YES [x]	NO []
Are the meals served cafeteria style?	YES []	NO [x]

PROGRAMS

Are minors allowed ample time for recreation of any kind?	YES [x]	NO []
Do all minors exercise daily?	YES [x]	NO []
Do minors have access to religious services?	YES [x]	NO []
Are Medical/Mental Health Services available to minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there counseling available to the minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there a family reunification plan in place for minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there substance Abuse counseling available for minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Are there parenting classes available?	YES []	NO [x]
Are there any vocational classes available?	YES [x]	NO []

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Are all minors oriented to the rules and procedures?	YES [x]	NO []
Are rules and grievance procedures posted and visible to minors?	YES [x]	NO []
Is there a consistent and fair discipline plan in place?	YES [x]	NO []

COMMUNICATION

Do minors have access to phones?	YES [x]	NO []
Are minors given free postage for their correspondence?	YES [x]	NO []
Is incoming and outgoing mail read by staff?	YES []	NO [x]
Are accommodations made for visitation?	YES [x]	NO []
Does staff supervise visits?	YES [x]	NO []

Commissioners Observations:

Are the minors in a good state of appearance?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do they appear to shower regularly and in proper hygiene?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is clothing appropriate and in good condition?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Did the minors interviewed feel they had an opportunity to express their concerns or issues with the staff?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Was a minor interviewed prior to or before the inspection?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Were any issues raised during the minor interview?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Commissioners Narrative:

The Juvenile Justice Commission's inspection of Koinonia Group Home #5 found that the house was well maintained and complied with all licensure requirements. In addition to being neat and organized, the facility managed to adopt a welcoming and homely atmosphere rather than a clinical one. The home is primarily focused on treating those who suffer from substance abuse, and typically houses 6 girls.

Interviews with two minors revealed that they were incredibly pleased with the facility and the programing. Both minors described how they felt that the program was helping them immensely by letting them develop the necessary skills for success. They spoke highly of the staff, explaining how they felt comfortable with the staff and viewed them as one of the best parts of the program. Furthermore, the minors praised the means in which the house is run, calling the rules strict but reasonable, and citing the facilitated one-on-one approach to conflict resolution, which they found effective at defusing the situation that simultaneously improved their overall ability to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

The commission was impressed the staff and their commitment to both the program and the minors, as well as the low rate of staff turnover. Koinonia appears to have effective policies for recruiting and retaining quality staff.

Both minors interviewees stated that they attend religious services every Sunday and that if they were to choose not to attend, they would alternatively remain in the van for the duration of the religious service and complete program work. Because of the disparity between these options, the commission is concerned that attendance at religious services may not be truly voluntary and would encourage the program to develop additional alternatives to attending religious services.

The Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission of Placer County finds that Koinonia House 5 is in compliance with California State Licensing Regulations.